

With many issues still unresolved in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, Good Jobs New York is keeping the spotlight on government money in the rebuilding process. For more on opportunities for community involvement, follow us on Twitter @GoodJobsNewYork #EyeOnSandyMoney. And let us know how we can make this alert better.

Keeping an Eye on Hurricane Sandy Recovery Money Weekly News Round-up: September 18-25

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Transparency Tip

New York City's Sandy Tracker now contains Build it Back contractor and subcontractor information which includes company name, amount of contract, and projected jobs associated with the contract.

[Take a look!](#)

Like our weekly round-up? Please forward to a friend.

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Have you heard?

Good Jobs New

People's Climate March and Climate Week news

An incredibly diverse crowd participated in the People's Climate March on Sunday, demanding global action on climate change. [The New York Times](#)

ALSO: Many residents of the South Bronx and other environmentally unjust neighborhoods turned out to the People's Climate March and gave voice to their frustrations with the lack of air quality controls and carbon-heavy industries concentrated in low-income neighborhoods. [La Respuesta](#)

ALSO: New York City union members turned out strong for the People's Climate March because climate change affects them: many live in low-lying parts of the city. [Editor's Guild Labor News](#)

ALSO: In an interview with People's Climate March organizer Bill McKibben, he explains how Sandy-impacted communities led the planning of much of the march. [The New Yorker](#)

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito joined the People's Climate March just hours after releasing a proposal to cut greenhouse gas emissions in New York City 80% by 2050, mostly by retrofitting old buildings to be more energy efficient. [New York Observer](#), [New York Daily News](#) and [Forbes](#) (editorial)

During the opening ceremony of the U.N. Climate Summit, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio urged action to combat climate change, citing the damage and loss of life caused by Hurricane Sandy. [The Hill](#) and [Staten Island Advance](#)

ALSO: A complete summary of the Climate Summit meetings, available from the United Nations Department of Public Information [U.N. Media Brief](#)

Recognizing the connection between global action on climate issues and long-term sustainable jobs and communities, the Climate Justice Alliance issued a [statement](#) at the opening of the official U.N. summit. This [editorial](#) in The Nation bemoans that this did not get greater media attention.

Cities have the means and the motivation to slow climate change,

York launched a new [Eye on Hurricane Sandy Money database](#) to help boost transparency about how much and which government agencies have allocated Hurricane Sandy funds in New York City.

Check it out - and tell us what you think!

with the majority of the world's population living in cities, which face a greater risk of climate change impacts. [Scientific American](#)

Briefings prepared by the University of Cambridge, highlighted at the U.N. Climate Summit, communicate the facts of climate science to businesses, especially disruptions and losses that can occur due to climate change. [The Guardian](#)

This Week's News

Disaster Relief

New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer [announced](#) a new plan for the city to begin issuing "green bonds" to help finance the development of climate-resilient infrastructure and other post-Sandy rebuilding needs. [The Wall Street Journal](#)

Following an audit of the Build it Back program in June, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development prohibited New York City from using federal CDBG-DR funds to reimburse homeowners for Sandy-related repairs, causing reimbursements to be made from the city's general fund; the issue is now resolved and federal funds can again be used for reimbursements. [Staten Island Advance](#)

The de Blasio administration is extending the city's contract with Hagerty Consulting, which provides recovery consulting services including financial management and policy work. The current contract ([available here](#)) will be increased by \$30 million. [Capital New York](#)

A New Jersey man was charged with fraud for accepting about \$117,000 in FEMA aid to repair his vacation home, which he claimed as a primary residence. The New Jersey Attorney General has filed criminal charges against 16 people in connection with fraudulent applications for Sandy aid. [NJ Patch](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

New York and New Jersey will receive \$3.3 billion in U.S. Department of Transportation funds, representing the last major allocation of the disaster relief appropriation for the federal agency to disburse. The majority is earmarked for subway and commuter rail system repairs. [The New York Times](#)

ALSO: One Hudson River tunnel connecting Penn Station to New Jersey is almost complete. Because the tunnel partially flooded during Sandy, it was eligible for \$185 million in Sandy funds from the U.S. Department of Transportation. [The Record](#)

ALSO: The MTA's 2015-19 capital plan reveals a more than \$15 billion funding gap. [WNYC](#) and [The Wall Street Journal](#)

Staten Island University Hospital will get \$28 million in New York City CDBG-DR funds for resiliency measures at both of its

campuses; it was also awarded \$12 million in FEMA funds. [NY1](#) and [Crain's Health Pulse](#)

ALSO: A [report](#) by the Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services found that hospitals in disaster areas during Sandy faced challenges to communications infrastructure and were unprepared for dealing with the emergency fuel shortage and power outages. [Capital New York](#)

ALSO: A new mobile solar unit that would provide uninterrupted electricity to operate life-saving devices is currently being tested and could become a medical necessity during weather emergencies. [Newswise](#)

Gov. Cuomo signed the Community Risk and Resiliency Act which will require state agencies to assess future climate risks prior to any permitting, funding or regulatory action for a development project. The legislation also requires the state to assess climate risk every five years and help develop community plans to protect against severe flooding and storms. [Legislative Gazette](#)

ALSO: [Streetsblog](#) points out that Gov. Cuomo has not made any commitments to preventing climate change; a bold climate plan for New York State should protect and enhance mass transit, which reduces carbon impact, by closing the \$15 billion MTA funding gap.

Sandy Hook, NJ residents oppose a plan by the U.S. Coast Guard to rebuild three buildings in a historically significant area that were flooded during Sandy. [MyFoxNY.com](#)

Housing

The Center for New York City Neighborhoods released [Rising Tides, Rising Costs](#), a report and [interactive website](#), that documents the impacts of rising flood insurance prices on the affordability crisis in New York City's flood prone communities.

ALSO: An analysis of the National Flood Insurance database found that half of new insurance policies were cancelled within the first four years, suggesting that homeowners in flood-prone areas may not be fully informed of the actual risks they face. [Businessweek](#)

The de Blasio administration will be hiring more construction contractors to quicken the pace of home rebuilding; homeowners currently have mixed opinions about the program. [New York Daily News](#) and [The Real Deal](#)

ALSO: At last week's New York City Council hearing on the progress of Build it Back, many residents drew attention to the fact that despite recent progress in the program only 9% of total case applications are resolved. [NY1](#)

More than 40 homes have been torn down in Staten Island through Gov. Cuomo's home buyout program. These marshy areas are

already attracting wildlife to the newly open space. [National Public Radio](#)

Events

List your upcoming event here! Email elizabeth@goodjobsfirst.org

Regional Events

Ongoing, citywide: [New York Free Disaster Assistance Legal Clinics](#).

Do you have a group interested in helping with the Sandy rebuild? Check out [this list](#) of ongoing service opportunities to help with hurricane Sandy rebuilding and revitalization.

Tuesday, September 30, 9:45 am- 11:00 am: Part II: Resident Voices from the Field: Building a Prepared Community in partnership with Resident Leadership. Enterprise Community Partners, One Whitehall Street, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10004

Friday, October 10: [Second Annual Long Island Water Quality Symposium](#). The symposium is open to all members of the public. Seating is limited and pre-registration is required. A confirmation email must be presented at the door. To reserve a seat, please email your request to: LIwatersymposium@rivkin.com by no later than October 2nd. Carlyle On the Green in Bethpage State Park.

Brooklyn

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10:00-3:00: [Jubilee Legal Clinic](#), Coney Island Gospel Assembly, 2828 Neptune Avenue. Visit website for additional hours and information including income requirements.

Advocacy Reports

NEW: The Center for New York City Neighborhoods: [Rising Tides, Rising Costs](#)

NEW: [FloodHelpNY](#) is a dynamic map that allows users to find out what their flood insurance rate will be when new federal flood maps are available in 2016 and provides links to information on purchasing flood insurance.

NYU Furman Center: [The Price of Resilience: Can Multifamily Housing Afford to Adapt?](#)

[Stakeholder Engagement Report: Environmental Justice Climate Change Preparedness in New Jersey](#) [to view the report, follow the link and click on 'Environmental Justice']

The New York League of Conservation Voters: [Taking Stock: Sustainability and Resiliency Progress during Mayor de Blasio's First Six Months](#)

The International Economic Development Council released a guide to help local economies recovering from a disaster: [Leadership in Times of Crisis: A Toolkit for Economic Recovery and Resiliency](#)

New York Communities for Change: [Thousands of Homeowners Still Drowning in Underwater Mortgages: How Toxic Loans Keep Fueling Foreclosures and the Need for Eminent Domain](#)

Risky Business Project: [American Climate Prospectus: Economic Risks in the United States](#)

Report from the ClimateWorks Foundation and the World Bank - [Climate-Smart Development:](#)

Adding up the benefits of actions that help build prosperity, end poverty and combat climate change.

Fifth Avenue Committee, [Guidelines to Building Resiliency](#)

North Star Fund, [From The Edge Of Disaster: How Activists and Insiders Can Use the Lessons of Hurricane Sandy to Make the City Safer](#)

New York League of Conservation Voters [Three Point Action Plan](#) to address New York City's most pressing environmental and resiliency challenges

Natural Resources Defense Council: [Preparing for Climate Change: Lessons Learned for Coastal Cities from Hurricane Sandy](#). This report analyzes FEMA flood maps to reveal that the maps did not account for 65% of the area that was actually inundated by Sandy.

For more advocacy resources, visit Good Jobs New York's [Keeping an Eye on Hurricane Sandy Recovery Money](#)

Federal, State & Local Resources

NEW: Office of the New York City Comptroller, [A Green Bond Program for New York City](#)

NEW: Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General: [Hospital Emergency Preparedness and Response During Superstorm Sandy](#)

Swiss Re report: ["The Big One: The East Coast's USD 100 billion hurricane event"](#)

[Government Accountability Office audit](#) outlining opportunities to enhance FEMA efficiency in operations.

The [New York Recovery Network](#) provides links to disaster relief funding programs, regional trainings and events, and other news and related information on statewide Sandy recovery. Website registration is required.

[New York City's Quarterly Performance Report to HUD](#), April-June 2014.

U.S. Energy Information Administration, [Flood Vulnerability Assessment Map](#)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: [Sea Level Rise and Nuisance Flood Frequency Changes around the United States](#)

New York City Comptroller's Office: [Audit Report on the New York City Housing Authority's Section 3 and Resident Employment Programs](#)

New York City Comptroller's Office released the annual [ClaimStat report](#) along with interactive maps which reveal claims against the city as reported to five city agencies, including sewer overflow claims from 2012-13 reported to the New York City Department of Environmental Protection.

New York City Comptroller's Office: [Audit Report](#) on the Department of Homeless Services' Oversight of Contractors Hired to Assist Individuals and Families Displaced by Hurricane Sandy

RISE:NYC, a competition to innovate technologies that will help prepare small businesses for climate change, announced 37 finalists. To read more about the finalists and links to competition

updates see the [NYCEDC blog](#)

The Canarsie Coalition prepared a [resource guide](#) including contact information for organizations and individuals involved in addressing unmet needs in Canarsie, Brooklyn.

[LawHelpNY.org](#) launched a mobile site to provide mobile access to information and referrals for low-income New Yorkers seeking help with problems in areas such as housing, family law, consumer debt and immigration.

The Center for NYC Neighborhoods in partnership with the New York State Attorney General, hosts a [Homeowner Hotline](#), a confidential service available to answer housing counseling or legal questions. 311 in New York City, or 855-HOME-456.

New York City Office of Emergency Management [Know Your Zone Hurricane Preparedness website](#).

New York Rising Community Reconstruction Final Plans are now available: <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr/final-plans>

[One City, Rebuilding Together](#): A Report on the City of New York's Response to Hurricane Sandy and the Path Forward.

The [Program Management Office](#) of the Hurricane Sandy Task Force released its [monthly report](#) [pdf] on how 19 federal agencies have so far spent funding from the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013.

A helpful [visual guide](#) to the agencies and key decision-makers distributing federal disaster relief funds.

The Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City (a private 501-c3) released [an update](#) of how the funds it raised for Sandy aid have been allocated.

Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force report, [Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Strategy: Stronger Communities, A Resilient Region](#)

ALSO: Good Jobs New York provides a critique of the federal Task Force recommendations in a [three-part blog series](#).

For more resources, visit Good Jobs New York's [Keeping an Eye on Hurricane Sandy Recovery Money](#)

We'd love to hear from you!

Check out our resources on Hurricane Sandy money at our website. Or follow us on Twitter: [@GoodJobsNewYork](#) [#EyeOnSandyMoney](#). Please forward your suggestions on how we can make this round-up more useful to you in your work.

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